Dems want to remove marriage definition in constitution

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MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin Democrats on Monday called for the elimination of nullified language in the state's constitution that defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

Lawmakers held a news conference to introduce the resolution after the U.S. Supreme Court decision Friday legalizing gay marriage nationwide. State Reps. JoCasta Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee, and Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit, applauded the court's decision and said Wisconsin's constitution should be amended to reflect it.

"Finally victory is ours, but with this bill we want to ensure that our beloved state of Wisconsin is on the right side of history by removing this discriminatory language from our constitution," Zamarripa said.

The measure is largely symbolic because a federal appeals court struck down the state's same-sex marriage ban last year. But Spreitzer said it's important to give voters an opportunity to amend the constitution.

Voters in 2006 amended the constitution to include the definition.